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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Office of the State Climatologist

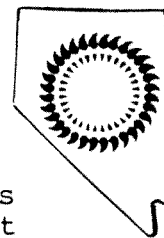
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SYNOPSIS

Documents Section

June was the 4th colder than normal month in a row in Nevada. After an unusually warm February the mercury has been on the deficit side of the ledger. Precipitation was more a mixed bag, as no precipitation fell in parts of Central Nevada and less than 1/4 of normal in Central Elko County and in the extreme South, but up to over twice normal in the extreme east-central part of the Silver State.

Water Year Precipitation (October 1, 1990--June 30, 1991) now ranges from a high of 75-110% of normal in Central Nevada, and 70-100% in the Humboldt Watershed, to only 50-65% along the east slope of the Sierra Nevada in the West, where the five year drought has caused the most hardship. The South is about 75% of normal.

TEMPERATURE

Nevada has been blessed with a cooler than normal Spring and early Summer, making the drought a little easier for many residents to live through. Departures from normal in June ranged from 5-6 degrees below normal in the northwest corner of the State to near normal in Central and Far Western Nevada.

No extreme temperature records were set this month as the mercury rose to "only" 118 degrees at Cottonwood Cove on the 11th, (the State June record is 122 degrees at Overton in 1954, Echo Bay in 1981, and Laughlin and Cottonwood Cove in 1990), falling to 24 degrees at Spring Valley State Park, San Jacinto Ranch, and Lee Canyon Fire Station. Belmont recorded the June low of only 8 degrees in 1891.

PRECIPITATION

Most of the Silver State had less than normal precipitation this month. One exception was the Snake Range of Eastern Nevada where 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 times normal occurred. For example, Great Basin National Park had 240% of normal (1.81") for the most recorded in the State this month. It was also wetter than normal in the extreme Northwest where McDermitt (1.63") and Denio (1.60") had over 1 1/2 times the normal June amount.

On the dry side of the rain gage stick, no precipitation was recorded at China Spring, Stateline Harrah's, Goldfield, Silverpeak, Belmont, and Cottonwood Cove.

The National Weather Service reported a range of rain amounts from 0 to .87" at the Nevada Test Site northwest of Las Vegas.

New observer Jim Brumbaugh (Bare Ranch)--south of Eagleville in Modoc County, California) and Verne Lund (Unionville), reported .39" and .62" respectively. In Carson City, Thelma Simoncini, on Hawk Street, recorded three times the amount that was recorded at the official location at the fire station south of town (.70" vs. .23"). West of Reno, Herb Lawler had .92" at Mogul and Paul Page .96" at Reno Mayberry.

SUNSHINE, WIND AND EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were above normal in all but the eastern part of the State where Ely recorded a below normal 71% of the possible hours versus an 80% normal, Las Vegas had 94% (normal = 92%), Reno 90% (normal = 85%), and Winnemucca 83% and a normal of only 75%.

Wind speeds averaged above normal Statewide, although no extreme winds were reported. Gusts did reach 60 mph atop 9700 foot Slide Mountain near Reno at mid month, with 47 mph gusts reported at Smokey Valley.

Despite cooler than normal temperatures evaporation was above normal in many areas, For example, Fallon Experimental Station had 11.90" and a normal of only 9.00", and Honey Lake Fleming 8.67", and 8.16" normal. Reno UNR (9.30") and Minden (8.87") were also above normal, as was Donna Taylor's Orovada measurement of 9.84". Silverpeak (14.96"), Logandale (13.43"), and Rye Patch (8.00") were all below normal.

NOTE: From Eleona Neal's research into our historical files -- "August 1899 was a remarkably cool month with temperatures averaging several degrees below normal. Precipitation was above normal. Thunderstorms, high winds, and rain damaged the grain and alfalfa. Snow fell on the mountains on the 18th and a heavy frost on the 22nd did damage to the grain and vegetable crops. The unripe grain was so badly frozen that it was cut for hay!"

For something more recent, Lovelock residents might recall the golfball size hail that fell August 22, 1976 causing \$5,000,000 damage. A week earlier that same "summer" several inches of snow fell above the 8,000 foot level in the northern 1/2 of Nevada!

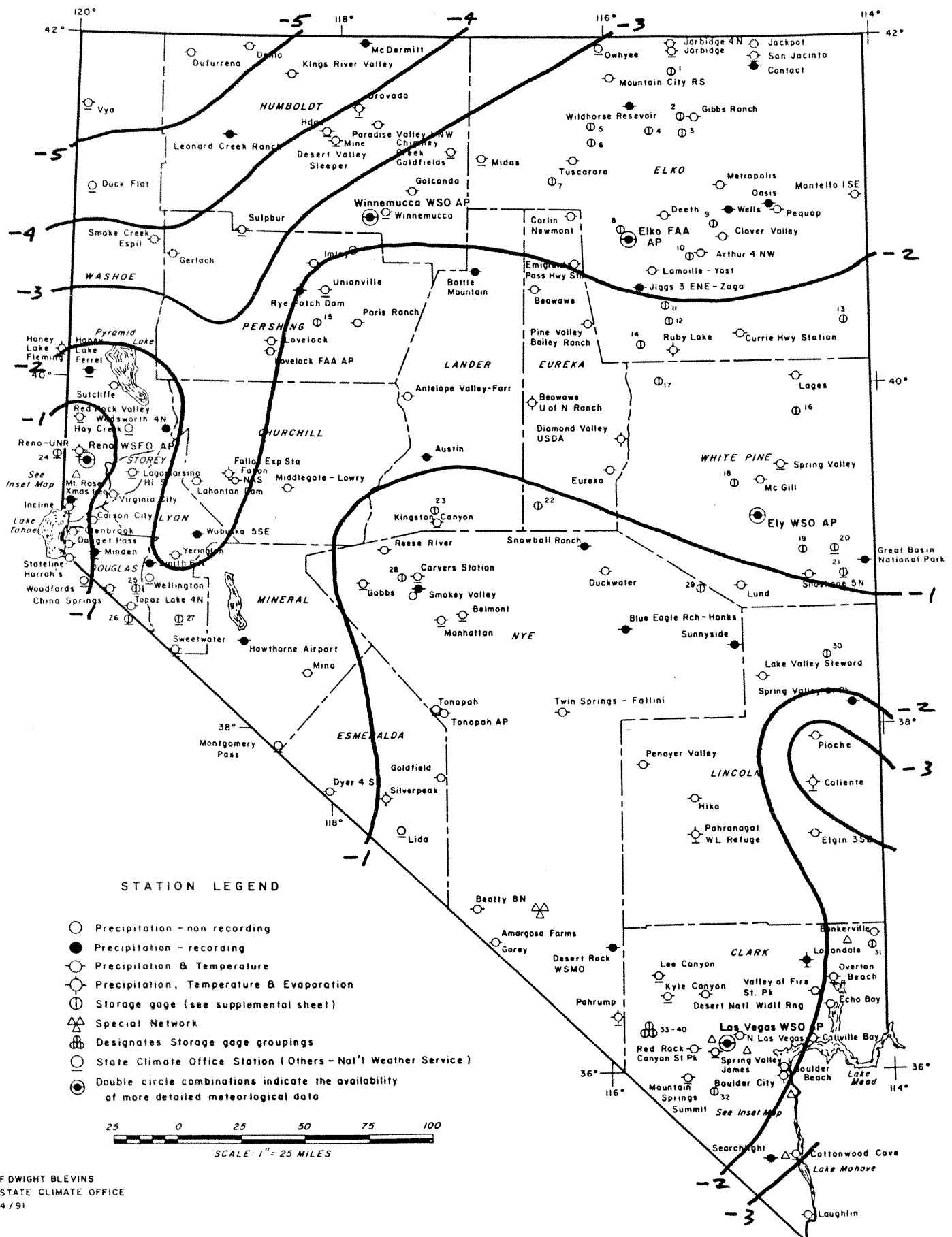
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State Climatologist

NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)

JUNE 1991



NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION

JUNE 1991

